



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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July 3, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – DRICE
INCORPORATED - DRICE HOUSE AND PEANUTS GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Drice House and Peanuts Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Drice, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Drice House Group Home is a six-bed facility which provides care for boys ages 7-13 years who exhibit behavioral social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Drice Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Peanuts Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13 -17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Peanuts Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Drice House and Peanuts Group Homes are located in the Second District.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both group homes need to include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Drice House Group Home needs to clean and repair the walls, clean the bathroom floor and tub, and repair the bedroom window screens and floors. The Group Home also needs to maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals and maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication.

Peanuts Group Home needs to repair the kitchen and hardwood floors and remove the writing from the dressers and doors in the bedrooms.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan for Drice Group Home (attached) which we approved. However, since the time of the review, the Agency closed Peanuts Group Home. Therefore, there is no corrective action plan for this home. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

Board of Supervisors
July 3, 2007
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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gfw

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Dr. Ann Drice, PhD, Executive Director, Drice Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Drice Incorporated
Drice House Group Home
3507 West 58th Place
Los Angeles, California 90043
Phone: (323) 293-5582
License Number: 191801569
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Drice House Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the group home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the walls throughout the Group Home are dirty and there is unfinished patchwork on the walls of the living room, bathroom, and hallway. Additionally, the bathroom floor and bathtub are dirty.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings are in good repair. However, the window screens are damaged in bedrooms two and three and the hardwood floors are worn and damaged in all of the bedrooms. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Drice management:

- a. Clean and complete repairs on the walls throughout the home.**
- b. Clean the bathroom floor and bathtub.**
- c. Repair the bedroom window screens.**

d. Repair the bedroom floors.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs for one child are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

2. Drice management:

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals for all children.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, one child does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication he is taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

3. Drice management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

4. Drice management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

**Drice Incorporated
Peanuts Group Home
1100 West 40th Place
Los Angeles, California 90037
Phone: (323) 293-5582
License Number: 191801729
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Peanuts Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the hardwood floors throughout the Group Home are damaged.

Overall, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. However, there is writing on the dressers in bedrooms two and three and on the doors in bedroom two. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Drice management:

- a. Repair or replace the floors throughout the home as needed.**
- b. Remove the writing from the dressers and doors in the children's bedrooms.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, comprehensive and include short and long-term goals. However, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development of the NSPs.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

- 2. Drice management include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. Drice management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

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CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Recommendations	Status			Person Responsible for implementation	Quality Assurance Person
	Date Completed	Not Completed	Anticipated Completion Date		
1- Clean and repair the walls throughout the home.	The walls throughout the home were cleaned, painted, and repaired as needed. The work was completed in July 2006			The Maintenance Coordinator will do routine checks and any concerns or problems in the future will be repaired immediately.	The Facility Manager will be responsible for quality assurance and will perform periodic checks to assure the environment is well maintained
2- Clean the bathroom floor and bathtub.	The cleaning of the bathroom floor and bathtub was completed April 21, 2006 and continues to be cleaned on a daily basis			The Maintenance Coordinator will do routine checks and any concerns or problems in the future will be addressed immediately.	The Facility Manager will be responsible for quality assurance and will perform periodic checks to assure the bathroom is clean.
3- Repair the bedroom window screens.	New window screens were installed in September 2006			The Maintenance Coordinator will do routine checks and any concerns or problems in the future will be addressed immediately.	The Facility Manager will be responsible for quality assurance and will perform periodic checks to assure the window screens are well

					maintained
4- Repair the bedroom floors.	Repairs to the bedroom floors were completed in May 2006			The Maintenance Coordinator will do routine checks and any concerns or problems in the future will be addressed immediately.	The Facility Manager will be responsible for quality assurance and will perform periodic checks to assure the environment is well maintained
5- Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.	Drice House will make every effort to ensure that all team members are notified to participate in the implementation of the NSPs.			Clinical Social Workers will ensure that the treatment team and the child are involved in the meetings.	Executive Director will monitor the procedure.
6- Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long-term goals.	Drice House Clinical Social Workers will develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable and realistic for each resident.			Clinical Social Workers	Executive Director will ensure that the facility Clinical Social workers develop a plan as recommended and review the plan upon completion.
7- Maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.	The missing authorization was immediately requested and received. Court responses are expected within 5 days however, if it is not received the Administrator			Group Home Administrator	Executive Director will monitor the procedure.

	will call the court on a daily basis and document the efforts until the authorization is received.				
8- Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.	Effective immediately all residents will be given the required age appropriate minimum weekly allowance starting with the first full week of placement.			Group Home Administrator will ensure that the use of the new allowance scale is utilized.	Executive Director will monitor the procedure.

 4/16/07
Dr. Ann Drice, CEO